

# Introduction to Alaska 1982



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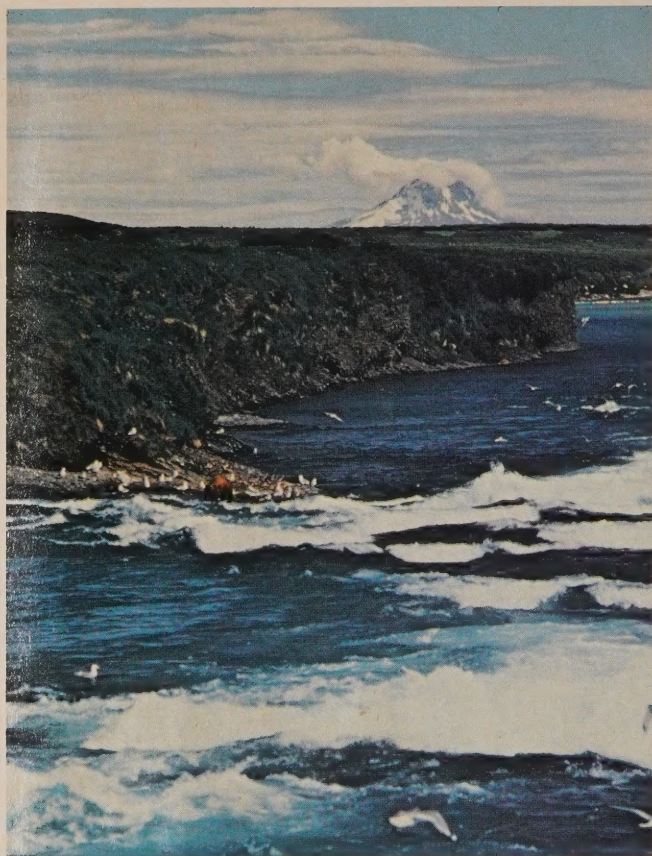
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# Introduction



Oblivious to flocks of scavenging gulls, a brown bear enjoys the rich feeding grounds of the McNeil River, with Augustine Volcano in the background. Located on uninhabited Augustine Island, 180 miles southwest of Anchorage, the 4,025-foot volcano last erupted in 1976, spreading ash over an area of 100,000 square miles. (Third Eye Photography)

**The Cover** — The MILEPOST®'s own Sharon Paul Nault celebrates Alaska among the fireweed near the Matanuska River. (Ken Braden)

New employees, new arrivals in Alaska, students — people who are just “being introduced” to Alaska — have always presented a problem to those of us more knowledgeable about the state. How can you tell “all about Alaska” in a few words? Or in a lifetime, for that matter?

That's the first thing you must try to understand — and it defies understanding — Alaska is big, it is vast . . . in physical size, certainly, but also in a spiritual sense. There are dimensions to living in Alaska that are as important to understand in their immensity as the need to realize the borders of Alaska are separated in any direction from several hundred to several thousand miles.

In Alaska you are where south meets north and east meets west. It is a short jet journey away from Seattle, one to two days' jet journey from border to border once you are in Alaska . . . three to seven days' driving time (or longer if you want to enjoy yourself more).

There is one difference about living in Alaska that must be realized more than any other aspect of life up here. We do not live together in one homogenous area, town after town. Each town in Alaska, and therefore each citizen, is truly living to a large degree “on his own.”

It is the kind of self-dependence that breeds a deeper togetherness in every community (or more intense differences of opinion), and in the relationship of the individual to his community and the community to the larger whole, there develops a sincere love in most people for the land itself.

When you have stayed through a winter, have wondered, have seen, endured, or suffered as the case may be, freezeup to breakup, then you will begin to understand.

In the following pages, we'll try to tell you more about Alaska and how to learn more. Welcome!

*Robert G. Huming*

Editor and Publisher

**A**laska is one-fifth the size of the combined Lower 48. The longest and widest state in the Union, it covers 586,412 square miles — more than one million acres for every day in the year.

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The rustic cabin of the Visitor Information Center is surrounded by the steel and concrete of modern downtown Anchorage. (Staff)



## Alaska population

**400,331**

Town or village	Population*
Anchorage	173,992
Barrow	2,190
Bethel	3,503
Cordova	1,959
Delta	942
Dillingham	1,535
Fairbanks	22,538
Gambell	441
Haines	1,685
Juneau	19,483
Kaktovik	165
Ketchikan	7,248
Kivalina	241
Kodiak	4,746
Kotlik	291
Kotzebue	2,044
Nenana	471
Nome	2,273
Nuiqsut	207
Palmer	2,143
Point Hope	461
Sand Point	619
Savoonga	491
Seward	1,842
Sitka	7,769
Tanana	394
Unalaska	1,301
Valdez	3,173
Wainwright	404
Wales	134
Wasilla	1,548
Willow	134

\*Based on preliminary figures, U.S. Census, 1980







Of the 20 highest peaks in the United States, 17 are in Alaska. In fact, the Great Land has 19 peaks over 14,000 feet. Rising above surrounding glaciers, these mountains are part of the Alaska Range which separates the Interior from the Gulf Coast. (Randy Brandon, Third Eye Photography)



# The Land

**A**laska encompasses an unparalleled geographical diversity within its 586,412 square miles.

From Ketchikan, gateway city at the extreme southeastern tip, to northernmost Barrow; from historical Eagle near the Canadian border to Attu at the edge of tomorrow in the western Aleutians, the geography of Alaska sweeps from sea level along the nation's longest shoreline to the continent's highest peak.

Fiord-and-island-studded Southeast sports lush vegetation, sheltered bays, steep precipices, and expansive glaciers and ice fields. Nestled in the bays or clinging to steep hillsides are some of Alaska's largest communities: Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka, Haines, Skagway, and the state capital, Juneau.

Tourism, fishing, logging, and state government support these towns. The southeastern section of the Alaska Marine Highway System links these and smaller communities with Canadian and Lower 48 ports. Numerous cruise ships call at Southeast destinations.

At Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve major cruise lines and smaller operators take visitors into the glacier-scoured maze to observe plant succession and the effects of glacial advance and retreat.

As the great curve attaching Southeast to the rest of Alaska bends westward, only the fishing community of Yakutat interrupts the wilderness which extends to the Copper River and farther west to Cordova. Forming a backdrop for Yakutat are the Fairweather Range and Saint Elias Mountains, highest coastal range in the world.



*Sitka spruce on Admiralty Island, Tongass National Forest.*  
(George Wuerthner)



*Arrigetch Valley in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Arrigetch is an Eskimo name said to mean "fingers extended." (John and Margaret Ibbotson)*

**A**laskans have about 40 times the national average when it comes to elbow room. If the 400,000 residents took to the hills and tundra of the Great Land, they'd each have more than a square mile of privacy.

Being sociable, nearly half the population of Alaska lives in Anchorage (population 173,017), business and transportation center of the state. With the exception of several small villages and Fairbanks (population 54,000), much of the interior is populated only by critters. Southeastern Alaska contains several large towns, but is largely undeveloped.

Farther west the Saint Elias blend with the Chugach Mountains. To the north the jumbled mass of ice and snow joins with the Wrangell Mountains.

The Copper River forms the only breach in the Chugach Mountains which rim Prince William Sound, a large indentation in the gulf coast dotted with islands and passages that shelter a rich marine ecosystem. In addition to Cordova, Valdez and Whittier serve as transportation and commercial centers for the sound.

Beyond Prince William Sound, waves from the Gulf of Alaska batter the Kenai Peninsula's southern shore. Several large bays and fiords break the coastline, much of which is included in Kenai Fjords National Park. Seward, southern terminus of The Alaska Railroad and a fishing and industrial port of growing importance, lies at the head of Resurrection Bay. Largest finger reaching toward the state's interior along the northern gulf coast is Cook Inlet, a 220-mile-estuary which reaches north to Anchorage. Before arriving at Anchorage, however, the inlet curves around the Kenai Peninsula, passing the small fishing community of Seldovia and the larger fishing, cultural, and retirement area of Homer. Moving north once again, several small communities, connected by the Sterling Highway, dot the coast. Kenai, hub of Cook Inlet oil activity, and neighboring Soldotna have absorbed much of the population growth characterizing the peninsula in recent years. From Kenai, Cook Inlet makes its last push to Anchorage, passing the Swanson River oil fields and Kenai National Wildlife Refuge on the east and the Aleutian Range and a few small fishing and wilderness outposts on the west. The Tanaina Indian village of Tyonek lies on the inlet's west side. Activity in



this wilderness is expected to increase before too long with development of the Beluga River coal field northwest of Tyonek.

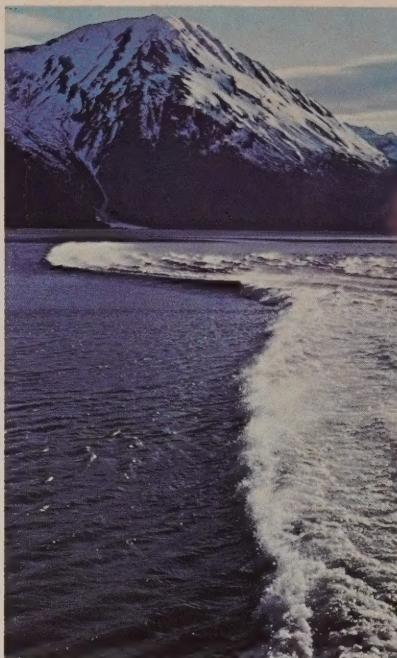
Anchorage sits on a plain backed by the Chugach Mountains and bordered on two sides by Knik Arm and Turnagain Arm. In addition to its position as the state's largest city, Anchorage serves as a commercial, financial, and transportation center.

Northeast of Anchorage the Glenn Highway winds through the Matanuska River Valley on its way to Glennallen and the Richardson Highway coming north from Valdez. The Matanuska Valley was settled during the 1930s by homesteaders who built the valley into a major agricultural area. Near Palmer the George Parks Highway breaks off from the Glenn to travel north about 350 miles to Fairbanks. Just west of the highway the broad Susitna River Valley pushes north to the foothills of the Alaska Range. In the center of this mountain barrier rises the McKinley massif crowned by Mount McKinley, at 20,320 feet the highest peak in North America.

Beyond the curve of the Alaska Range the landscape spreads out in a broad lowland marked by meandering rivers, ranges of smaller mountains and hills, and countless tundra ponds. To the north the region known as the Interior stretches from the Alaska Range to the Brooks Range. Transportation and commercial center for the Interior is the state's second largest city, Fairbanks, in the Tanana Lowlands.

The Interior is crossed by numerous major and minor rivers, all seeking an outlet to the sea. And one mighty river — the Yukon — carries the majority of this water on its approximately 1,400-mile, winding course through Alaska to the Bering Sea where its sediment fans out to cover more than 4,000 square miles of ocean floor.

At 20,320 feet, Mount McKinley is the highest peak in North America, and more mammoth from base to tip than Mount Everest. While Everest rises from a 14,000-foot plateau, Mount McKinley looms from a surrounding elevation of just 2,000 feet, for a net climb of 18,000 feet compared with Everest's 15,000 feet. (Julie Collins)



Bore tide in Turnagain Arm south of Anchorage. (Bill Coghill)

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**T**he second greatest tide range in North America occurs in upper Cook Inlet where, near Anchorage, the maximum diurnal range during spring tides is 38.9 feet. (The Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia has the greatest spring range at 47.5 feet.)

These extreme tide ranges also produce what is known as a bore tide — a steep, foaming wall of water. Though one- or two-foot bores are more common, spring tides in Turnagain Arm of Cook Inlet may produce bore tides up to six feet high as the tide comes in.

Several factors, including distance from the equator and local topography, influence tidal ranges.

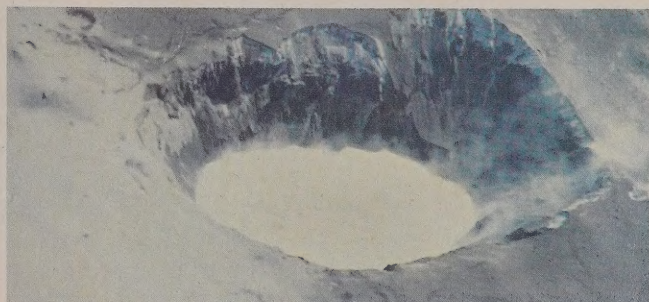






**A**laska has 40 volcanoes that have erupted in the last 250 years, with at least 20 more volcanic centers active in geologically recent times. Possessing more than 10% of the world's identified volcanoes, and three-quarters of North America's tallest volcanic peaks, the state has become a life-size laboratory for scientists. The greatest concentration of volcanic activity is found in the Aleutian Islands arc, where 80 peaks have risen from the ocean floor.

When Pavlof Volcano erupted in November 1980, and again in September 1981, airlines passengers in the vicinity of Cold Bay had this awesome view.  
(Marc Olson, reprinted from ALASKA® magazine)



Maar near Mount Peulik on the Alaska Peninsula.  
(Thomas P. Miller, U.S. Geological Survey)  
**Editor's note:** Turn this picture upside down and the crater becomes a giant barnacle.

**M**ount Peulik on the Alaska Peninsula has some of the few volcanic maars in the world. A maar is usually a round, small crater created by a subsurface meeting of underground water and hot magma.

**T**he root of the icebox image of Alaska might be found in the ice fields that cover 28,800 square miles of the 49th state. That's only 4.9% of the Great Land, but an area larger than several other states in the Union.

Ice fields develop where large interconnecting valley glaciers are separated by mountain peaks and ridges projecting through the ice. Examples include the Juneau, Stikine, Harding, and Sargent ice fields. The largest covers 500 square miles.



Researchers have been studying the Juneau Icefield for years, checking growth and movement.  
(Mark Kelley)

The Aleutian Range merges with the Alaska Range on the west side of Cook Inlet and arcs to the southwest forming the backbone of the Alaska Peninsula. Off the peninsula's southern shore, across Shelikof Strait, lies the Kodiak archipelago with its hub at the fishing-and-Coast-Guard port of Kodiak. The range continues its curve across the sea where its peaks rise from the ocean's depths to form the Aleutian Islands, dividing the deep Pacific Ocean from the shallow Bering Sea.

To the west the terrain slopes from the summit of the Alaska Range to the immense coastal plains of western Alaska. North of the Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay nourishes one of the state's richest marine environments.

Beyond the Ahklun Mountains which border the bay on the north extends the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, a huge coastal plain stretching 250 miles from Kuskokwim Bay to Norton Sound and inland 200 miles to the Kuskokwim Mountains. Bethel, largest community in western Alaska, serves as the transportation and commercial center for this vast region, traditional homeland of the Yup'ik Eskimo.

North of Norton Sound the Seward Peninsula juts out into the ocean, separating the Bering Sea from the Chukchi. Mountainous terrain characterizes the southern peninsula while lowlands dotted with tundra ponds are more typical of the northern half. Commerce and transportation for most of the peninsula center around Nome.

Kotzebue Sound and its major tributaries, the Noatak, Kobuk, and Selawik rivers, form an important trading and transportation corridor for the Inupiat Eskimos of northwestern Alaska. The town of Kotzebue, on Baldwin Peninsula, serves as the hub of this commercial network. The Kobuk and Selawik rivers flow from interior Alaska to the coast south of the Brooks Range. The Noatak, on the other hand, winds more than 400 miles through the heart of the western Brooks Range.

North of the range lies the 88,000-square-mile arctic plain known as the North Slope. Barrow and a few other Inupiat Eskimo communities, and the oil complex at Prudhoe Bay are all that break the vast tundra landscape which slopes gently from the Brooks Range to the Arctic Ocean.



# In Alaska, you might . . .



*Dip for hooligan (eulachon) in the Chilkat River at Haines. (Ernest Manewal)*

*Watch the icebergs in Portage Lake, some 50 miles south of Anchorage. (Tom Walker)*



*Square dance on snowshoes at Homer. (Chlaus Lotscher)*



*Ride a bike on the beach at Kotzebue. (Holly Odd)*



*Raft the Nenana River, near Fairbanks. (Mark McDermott)*



*Drive your dog team along the trans-Alaska pipeline. (Julie Collins)*



*Ride a 3-wheeler at Savoonga, on Saint Lawrence Island. (John Larson)*





*Pan for gold in Craigie Creek, northwest of Palmer. (Leah C. Madonna)*



*Climb Mount McKinley. (John Johnson)*



*Slide down a hill with the kids at Kaktovik, a village on north Barter Island, Beaufort Sea. (John Johnson)*



*Catch your limit on the Russian River, Kenai Peninsula. This catch is red salmon. (Tom Walker)*

*Dig razor clams at Clam Gulch on the Kenai Peninsula. (Tom Walker)*







# —SEA—

The Alaska Marine Highway system offers an alternative to "driving" to Alaska. Travelers often drive the Alaska Highway in one direction and take the Marine Highway the other, an option that offers the scenic highway route and the incomparable scenery of the Inside Passage. The Alaska state ferries depart from Seattle, Washington, or Prince Rupert, British Columbia, for Southeastern Alaska communities.

The British Columbia ferry system offers passenger and vehicle service between Port Hardy on Vancouver Island and Prince Rupert, to connections in Southeastern with the Alaska state ferries.

The Marine Highway System runs between Seattle and Prince Rupert to Haines, Skagway and Juneau, Alaska. Travel in the summer is twice-weekly to these ports from Seattle and four-times weekly from Prince Rupert. Winter schedules on the ferry system vary and the rates are reduced.

An average one-way rate during the summer is \$216 for a standard car and \$82 per passenger from Prince Rupert to Skagway. Standard car rate is \$440 plus \$138 per passenger from Seattle to Skagway.

The Alaska state ferry system serves the Southeastern ports of Ketchikan, Metlakatla, Hollis, Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau, Kake, Sitka, Haines, Angoon, Hoonah, Pelican, Tenakee Springs, and Skagway, also Seattle and Prince Rupert.

The Alaska state ferry system is divided into two different systems serving two different areas: Southeastern and Southwestern. These two systems DO NOT connect with each other.

Ports of call in Southwestern are Seldovia, Homer, Kodiak, Seward, Valdez, Cordova, King Cove, Sand Point, Port Lions, Cold Bay, and Whittier.

Reservations may be made on the Alaska state ferries and are essential during the summer months. Reservations are required for vehicles and cabins on the Southeastern ferries and for walk-on passengers to and from Seattle.

Cruise ships are another way to see Alaska. The tours vary in duration, the number of ports of call, in combinations of sea, land and air, cabin location aboard ship, and date of sailing. Here are a few typical cruise tours:

Cruise line	From	Tour price ranges
Canadian Cruise Line	Vancouver, B.C.	\$880 to \$1,150
CP Rail	Vancouver	\$890 to \$1,905
Cunard Line Ltd.	Vancouver	\$850 to \$2,270
March Shipping Passenger Service	Vancouver	\$595 to \$1,095
Paquet Ulysses Cruises, Inc.	Vancouver	\$845 to \$1,665
Princess Tours	Vancouver	\$1,001 and up to
	San Francisco, CA	a two-week escorted
	Los Angeles, CA	air-sea tour \$2,405
Royal Viking Line	Los Angeles	\$2,604 to \$6,048
	San Francisco	
Sitmar Cruises	San Francisco	\$1,895 to \$3,475
Westours	Vancouver	\$855 for a six-day
		tour to \$1,935 to \$2,245
		for a 26-day combination
		air, sea, and land tour.
World Explorer Cruises	Vancouver	\$1,295 to \$2,750, one-week
		cruises available from
		\$645 to \$1,375



Travelers on the M.V. Malaspina near Haines have many opportunities to see scenery such as this on their voyage along the Inside Passage. (Brent Winebrenner)



Above — John Foster paddles down Gastineau Channel near Juneau with a state ferry and a local sailboat forming a backdrop. (Scott Foster)

Below — Cruise ships such as the Sun Princess pictured here in Sitka, are common sights at many Southeastern ports. Travelers also may visit Southeastern communities via state ferries. (Rollo Pool, Staff)





## —LAND—

The most popular overland route is the scenic Alaska Highway which winds north from Milepost 0 at Dawson Creek, British Columbia, cuts through the Yukon Territory to the Alaska border, then proceeds through Interior Alaska to Fairbanks, Milepost 1520. Several highways connect the Alaska Highway with the Gulf Coast region, other Interior communities, and with Haines and Skagway in Southeastern Alaska. You can board the Alaska state ferry system in Seattle or Prince Rupert and "drive" the Marine Highway system to Haines. Connecting with the Haines Highway to the junction, you can then take the Alaska Highway into Interior or Southcentral.

Most of the 1,200 miles of the Alaska Highway from Dawson Creek through Canada are gravel surface, while the Alaska portion is paved.

THE MILEPOST® includes a mile-by-mile guide of the Alaska Highway, showing distances in miles and kilometers, information on services along the route and safety tips on driving the highway. (See last page of this "Introduction to Alaska" for ordering information.) Although this road does not compare with major highways in the Lower 48, it is no longer a wilderness road and is driven by thousands of travelers each year in all types of vehicles.

Another method to travel the overland route is by scheduled bus line or arranged motor coach tour. Use of the bus lines, however, requires several interline changes throughout the trip with overnight stopovers. Service is usually three times weekly.

A few of the scheduled bus lines serving Canada, including the Yukon Territory, and Alaska are:

Canada's Coachway System, 222 First Avenue Southwest, Calgary, Alberta T2P 0A6; Alaska Coachways, 208 Wendell Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701; Greyhound Lines, 150 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 1W9; Norline Coach Ltd., 2157 Second Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory; Alaska-Yukon Motorcoaches, Suite 555, Fourth & Battery Building, Seattle, Washington 98121.

### Freight Service

Several carriers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seattle, Washington, or Portland, Oregon, ship cars, truck campers, house trailers and motorhomes. Smaller objects may be shipped by air cargo. Wrightway Auto Carriers; Sea-Land Service, Totem Ocean Trailer Express, and Pacific Alaska Line; these ship between Anchorage and Seattle and Portland.

From Seattle are Foss Alaska Lines, Alaska Hydro Train, Pacific Western Barge Lines, Coastal Alaska Lines, and Boyer Alaska Barge Line.

Approximate cost of shipping a standard size car from Seattle to Anchorage is \$925; an economy size car from Seattle to Anchorage is \$616; to ship any standard passenger or economy size car from Anchorage to Seattle is one set rate of approximately \$490. Persons shipping vehicles between Seattle and Anchorage are advised to shop around for the carrier which offers the services most suited to the shipper's needs.

Smaller freight may be shipped by air cargo. Approximate costs from Seattle to Anchorage — \$45 per 100 pounds or 60¢ per pound; from Seattle to Fairbanks — \$50 per 100 pounds or 72¢ per pound. These prices vary with carrier and dimension of cargo.

Motorcoach tours are available with Alaska-Yukon Motorcoaches. Their tours from Seattle or Prince Rupert via the Alaska Marine Highway System and the Alaska Highway to Fairbanks or Anchorage cost approximately \$340. The six-day tour gives you the best of both worlds, a look at the beautiful Inside Passage, and travel on the scenic Alaska Highway.

There is also scheduled, but limited, bus line service within the state.

In Alaska you may also rent cars, pickups, trucks, and recreational vehicles from agencies in several cities.

Guides and outfitters, boat and canoe rentals are available in most towns.

The Alaska Railroad provides limited intrastate passenger travel between Anchorage, Denali Park, Fairbanks, Portage, and Whittier. The White Pass & Yukon Route offers service between Skagway, Alaska, and Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

One-way coach fare between Anchorage and Denali Park is \$38, between Fairbanks and Denali Park is \$21, and between Fairbanks and Anchorage is \$55. The Alaska Railroad route parallels and often crosses the George Parks Highway.

Rail shuttle service is provided between Anchorage and the small port of Whittier, which is not served by any highway. Once in Whittier foot passengers or passengers with vehicles may travel the Alaska Marine Highway system to Valdez or Cordova. Whittier is a deep-water port which is used by the ferry systems and



*The Alaska Railroad provides a popular ride for tourists traveling to or from Anchorage, Denali National Park, and Fairbanks. Here the distinctive yellow rail cars cross the Knik River just north of Anchorage. (John and Margaret Ibbotson)*

also for incoming rail shipments to Anchorage. Foot passenger fare one-way between Portage and Whittier is \$3.50; vehicle and driver fare is \$18.75. Fare for foot passengers only between Anchorage and Portage is \$7.75.

The narrow-gauge White Pass and Yukon Route links the 110 miles between Skagway and Whitehorse following the old White Pass Trail used by miners during the Klondike gold rush. The railroad is famous for one of the steepest railroad grades in North America, climbing 2,885 feet in only 20 miles of track.

The train departs Skagway daily at 10 A.M. and arrives Whitehorse at 5 P.M. with a one-way adult fare of \$55. Vehicles may be transported on the train but must have advance reservations.

No matter which method you choose to travel north or to travel within the state, all offer scenic routes and many opportunities for seeing wildlife. The choice is yours. We hope both your trip and stay are very pleasant.





A cache on the Kenai Peninsula. (Helen Rhode)

## Information Sources

**Agriculture:** State Division of Agriculture, Box 1088, Palmer 99645; Cooperative Extension Service, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701.

**Business:** Department of Commerce & Economic Development, Division of Economic Enterprise, Pouch EE, Juneau 99811; State Chamber of Commerce, 310 Second Street, Juneau 99801.

**Education:** Department of Education, Pouch F, Juneau 99811; U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Box 3-8000, Juneau 99802.

**Health:** Department of Health and Social Services, Pouch H, Juneau 99811.

**Housing:** Alaska State Housing Authority, Box 80, Anchorage 99510.

**Hunting and Fishing Regulations:** Department of Fish & Game, Subport Building, Juneau 99801.

**Job Opportunities:** State Employment Service, Box 3-7000, Juneau 99811.

**Labor:** Department of Labor, Box 1149, Juneau 99811.

**Land:** Division of Forest, Land & Water Management, 941 East Dowling Road, Anchorage 99502; U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 701 C Street, P.O. Box 13, Anchorage 99513.

**Mines and Petroleum:** State Division of Geological Survey, 3001 Porcupine Drive, Anchorage 99501; Mines Information Office, Pouch M, Juneau 99811; Department of Environmental Conservation, Pouch O, Juneau 99811.

**Travel and Visitor Information:** Division of Tourism, Pouch E, Juneau 99811; Marine Highway Systems, Pouch R, Juneau 99811.

**Premium gas**, per gallon: unleaded, \$1.55 (full-serve); \$1.44 (self-serve).

**Regular gas**, per gallon: \$1.51 (full-serve); \$1.35 (self-serve).

**Diesel**, per gallon: \$1.24 to \$1.31.

**Car insurance:** low-risk, married adult over 25, driving medium-sized late-model car, full coverage, \$500 to \$600 annually.

**Auto tune-up:** compact, \$80 to \$100; V-8, \$140 to \$160.

**Milk:** 81 cents per quart.

**Eggs**, medium: 82 cents per dozen.

**Lettuce:** 79 cents to 91 cents per pound.

**Bread**, 24-ounce loaf of white: \$1.14.

**Ground beef**, 1 pound regular: \$1.89.

**Steak dinner** (New York cut): \$6.25 to \$18.

**Coffee per cup:** 40 cents to \$1.

**Ham and eggs:** \$3.40 to \$6.75.

**Hamburger:** 75 cents to \$5.95.

**Haircuts**, man's: \$8 to \$20; woman's including shampoo, blow-dry: \$15 to \$30.

**Beer**, per case: \$13.50. **per glass**, in a bar: \$1.50 to \$2.75.

**Bourbon**, 750 ml: \$7.60. **Scotch/water**, per drink, in a bar: \$2 to \$3.

## Sample Costs

Costs of food, clothing, housing, gasoline are 15% to 40% higher than in the Lower 48 states. Unofficial sample prices in Anchorage in mid-1981 were:

**Apartment rentals** per month: 1-bedroom, \$275 to \$475; 2-bedroom, \$340 to \$600; 3-bedroom, \$375 to \$850.

**Price of 2-bedroom home:** \$55,000 to \$95,000 and up; 3-bedroom, \$77,000 to \$145,000 and up; 4-bedroom, \$95,000 to \$170,000.

**Firewood:** \$65 to \$100 per cord, depending on season.

**Fuel oil for heating:** \$1.31 per gallon, per 100 gallons.



Produce in a Nome store. (Ernest Manewal)



## Newspapers

(Rates shown are subject to change.)

**ALASKA JOURNAL OF COMMERCE AND PACIFIC RIM REPORTER**, 715 L Street, Suite 5, Anchorage 99501. Weekly. Rates: 1 year, \$45; 2 years, \$85.

**ALL-ALASKA WEEKLY**, P.O. Box 970, Fairbanks 99707. Weekly. Second-class rates: 3 months, \$5.50; 6 months, \$11; 1 year, \$20.

**ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS**, 200 Potter Drive, Pouch 6616, Anchorage 99502. Daily including Sunday. Monthly rates: Anchorage home delivery, \$3.25; all mail subscriptions, \$7.95.

**THE ANCHORAGE TIMES**, 820 Fourth Avenue, P.O. Box 40, Anchorage 99510. Daily including Sunday. Monthly rates: Anchorage home delivery, \$4.75; via mail daily, \$8.25; Sundays, \$4.75. Inquire for out-of-state rates.

**BERING SEA FISHERMAN**, 805 West Third Avenue, Anchorage 99501. One year subscription, \$20.

**THE BERING STRAIGHTS**, P.O. Box 968, Nome 99762. Weekly. Yearly rates: \$20; first-class, \$38.

**CHEECHAKO NEWS**, P.O. Drawer O, Kenai 99611. Weekly. Yearly rate: regular mail, \$15.

**CHUGIAK-EAGLE RIVER STAR**, P.O. Box 1007, Eagle River 99577. Weekly. Rates: 6 months, \$6.50; 1 year, \$12.75; first-class mail, 6 months, \$13.

**COPPER VALLEY NEWS**, P.O. Box 233, Copper Center 99573. Bimonthly. Yearly rate: \$12.

**CORDOVA TIMES**, P.O. Box 200, Cordova 99574. Weekly. Yearly rates: second-class mail (Cordova only), \$26; first-class, \$47.

**DAILY SITKA SENTINEL**, P.O. Box 799, Sitka 99835. Daily except Saturday and Sunday. In Sitka: 3 months, \$16; 6 months, \$28; 1 year, \$50. Inquire for mailed subscription rates.

**THE DELTA PAPER**, P.O. Box 988, Delta Junction 99737. Weekly. Rates: 75 cents, weekly; yearly, \$39.

**FAIRBANKS DAILY NEWS-MINER**, Box 710, Fairbanks 99707. Daily except Sunday. Yearly rates: second-class mail, \$105.50 in Alaska; \$113 outside Alaska.

**GREAT LANDER SHOPPING NEWS**, 3110 Spenard Road, Anchorage 99503. Weekly. Free in distribution area. Yearly mail rate: third-class, \$20.

**HOMER NEWS**, P.O. Box 254, Homer 99603. Yearly rates: \$18 for regular mail; \$32 for first-class.

**JUNEAU EMPIRE**, 235 Second Street, Juneau 99801. Daily except Saturday and Sunday. Rates: Juneau, \$4.25 per month; second-class mail, \$6.10 per month.

**KADIAK TIMES**, P.O. Box 1698, Kodiak 99615. Twice weekly. Second-class rates: 6 months, \$13; 1 year, \$26. First-class rates: 6 months, \$20; 1 year, \$35.

**KETCHIKAN DAILY NEWS**, P.O. Box 7900, Ketchikan 99901. Daily except Sunday. In Ketchikan: 3 months, \$18; 6 months, \$32; 1 year, \$61. Second-class rates: 3 months, \$22; 6 months, \$40; 1 year, \$75.

**KODIAK DAILY MIRROR**, P.O. Box 1307, Kodiak 99615. Daily except Saturday and Sunday. Second-class rates: 1 year, state and local, \$58; out-of-state, \$84.

Oil from Alaska's largest producing oil field, Prudhoe Bay, is transported 800 miles to Valdez through the trans-Alaska pipeline, shown under construction here at a pipe lowering in Tonsina in the 1970s. (Courtesy Alyeska Pipeline Service Company)



Jim Rothenbuhler makes his living from Alaska's vegetation and wildlife. Here Jim shows Isa and Theo Rennick, visitors from Washington State, how to remove bark from diamond willow with a drawknife. (Penny Rennick, Staff)

**KUSKO COURIER**, McGrath 99627. Inquire for rates.

**LYNN CANAL NEWS**, P.O. Box 637, Haines 99827. Second-class rates: \$20 Haines and Skagway; \$23 out-of-town; \$30 for first-class.

**MUKLUK NEWS**, P.O. Box 96, Tok 99780. Biweekly. First-class rates: 6 months, \$13; 1 year, \$22.

**NOME NUGGET**, P.O. Box 610, Nome 99762. Semiweekly. Second-class rates: \$2 per month; \$12 for 6 months; \$20 for one year.

**THE FRONTIERSMAN**, P.O. Box D, Palmer 99645. Weekly. Yearly second-class rates in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, \$12.50; elsewhere, \$20.

**PENINSULA CLARION**, P.O. Box 1341, Kenai 99611. Daily except weekends and legal holidays. Rate: \$48 per year in Alaska. Inquire for Outside rates.

**PETERSBURG PILOT**, P.O. Box 930, Petersburg 99833. Weekly. Rates: 6 months, \$11 for Petersburg residents, \$13 for out-of-town, \$18 for first-class mail; 1 year, \$19 in town, \$22 out-of-town, \$35 for first-class.

**SEWARD PENINSULA QUARTERLY**, P.O. Box 610, Nome 99762. Quarterly. Free with subscription to NOME NUGGET.

**SEWARD PHOENIX LOG**, P.O. Box 97, Seward 99664. Weekly. Rates: 1 year, \$15 in Kenai Peninsula Borough, \$16 outside borough; \$28 per year, first-class.

**SOUTHEASTERN LOG**, P.O. Box 7900, Ketchikan 99901. Monthly. Rates: free to Southeast Alaska residents; other Alaska residents and out-of-state, 1 year, \$9;

**TUNDRA DRUMS**, P.O. Box 868, Bethel 99559. Weekly. Second-class rate: 1 year, \$10.

**TUNDRA TIMES**, 639 I Street, Anchorage 99501. Weekly. Rates: 1 year, \$20 for second-class; \$50 for first-class.

**VALDEZ VANGUARD**, P.O. Box 157, Valdez 99686. Weekly. Second-class rates: 1 year, \$26 local; \$54 out-of-town.

**THE VALLEY SUN**, Pouch M, Wasilla 99687. Weekly. Rates: free to residents of Matanuska-Susitna Borough; all others, 1 year, \$20.

**WHITEHORSE YUKON STAR**, Whitehorse, YT, Canada Y1A 1E6. Rates on request.

**WRANGELL SENTINEL**, Box 798, Wrangell 99929. Weekly. Rates: 1 year, \$20 for second-class; \$35 for first-class.

## Magazines

**ALASKA GEOGRAPHIC**, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage 99509.

Quarterly. Annual rates including membership in The Alaska Geographic Society: \$30; outside the United States, \$34.

**THE ALASKA JOURNAL**, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage 99509. Quarterly. Rates: \$16; outside the U.S., \$20.

**ALASKA** magazine, Box 4-EEE, Anchorage 99509. Monthly. Yearly rates: \$18 (\$17 for each additional subscription ordered at same time); outside the U. S., \$22.

**The MILEPOST**, P.O. Box 4-EEE, Anchorage 99509. Annual edition, available in March is 500 pages, \$9.95 (\$11.95 in Canada) plus \$1 for postage and handling (fourth-class); \$3 for first-class mail.







Above — Sled dog races bring color and excitement to Alaska in winter.  
(Staff)

Right — Alaska's flag shows the Big Dipper and North Star in gold on a deep blue background.  
(Sharon Paul, Staff)



## Miscellaneous Facts About Alaska

**The median age** in Alaska is 26.1 years.  
**The "typical" Alaskan** is 37 years old, the state 12 years.

**Legal drinking age** in Alaska is 19.

**Alaska is adjacent** to four bodies of salt water: the North Pacific Ocean, Bering Sea, Chukchi Sea, and Arctic Ocean.  
**Southeastern Alaska** includes about 1,000 of the state's 1,800 named islands, rocks and reefs.

**The sun rises** May 10 in Barrow and does not set until August 2. When the sun disappears at noon, November 18, it does not appear again until noon, January 24.

**Air taxis** are based in more than 100 Alaska communities. For current information on air taxi operators, contact the Alaska Air Carriers Association, Inc., Box 6469, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

**The Alaska Highway** (formerly called the Alcan) stretches 1,520 miles through Canada and Alaska from Milepost Zero at Dawson Creek, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska. The bible of Alaska travelers is *The MILEPOST®*, published by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company.

**Alaska** has 365,000 miles of rivers.

**Alaska's Native people** constitute 16% of the state's population: about 30,000 are Eskimos, 20,000 Indians (Tlingits, Athabascans, Tsimshians, and Haidas), and 6,500 are Aleuts.

**Alaska's state bird** is the willow ptarmigan. The **state flower** is the forget-me-not; **state tree** is the Sitka spruce; **state fish** is the king salmon; **state gem** is jade; **state mineral** is gold; **state sport** is dog mushing; **state song** is *Alaska's Flag*; the flag is the Big Dipper and North Star in gold on a deep blue background.

**The Aleutian Islands** reach 1,000 miles from Unimak, closest to the mainland, to Attu, the most distant. There are more than 200 islands in the chain; the southernmost are

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Additional copies of this 1982 for you or for others (plus 50¢ post-charge) are available for \$1.00 per hundred. To order, write: Alaska North-Office, 130 Second Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.



Forget-me-not. (Paul H. Leslie, *Flowers Guide*)

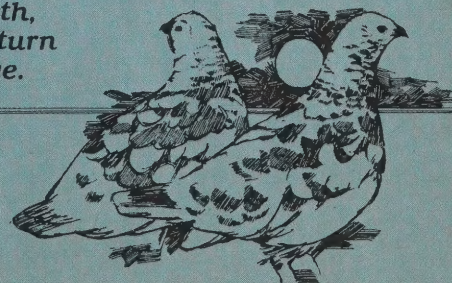
closer to Hawaii than any point in California, and starting from Unimak, all are west of Honolulu.

**The longest river** is the Yukon, which runs 1,933 miles from its headwaters in Yukon Territory to where it empties into the Bering Sea; 1,400 of those miles are in Alaska.

**Erskine House** in Kodiak is the oldest building, built by the Russians probably between 1793 and 1796.

**The largest gold nugget** was discovered near Nome, September 29, 1901, and weighed 107 ounces, 2 pennyweight, was 7 inches long, 4 inches wide and 2 inches thick.

To order publications about the North, please turn the page.

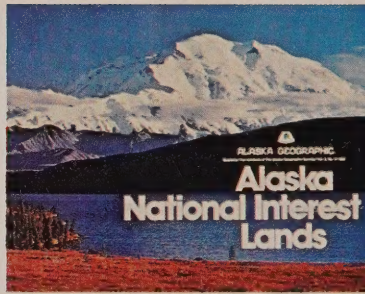
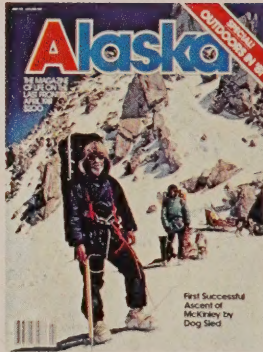
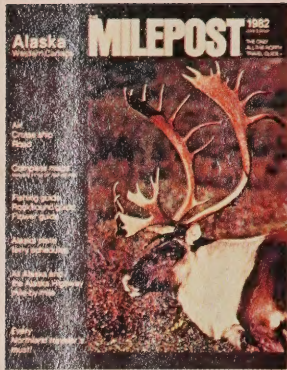






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